Os nuchale, in junioribus separatum, denique cum testâ dorsali unitum. *Sternum* latum, planum, albidum, ex ossibus septem callosis constans; *calli* granulato-punctati; anteriores ovato-subreniformes; impar rotundus; laterales irregulares, magni, extrorsùm ad marginem dorsi attinentes; posteriores rhomboidei, in adultis conjuncti. Apertura posterior inter testam dorsalem et sternum, lobis binis coriaceis clausa.

Mensura Corporis.

	ped.	unc.	lin.
Longitudo totalis (collo porrecto)	1	2	4
——— corporis	0	8	4
Latitudo	0	6	5
Longitudo sterni	0	7	0
Altitudo	0	3	0

The separation of the genus *Emyda* from the rest of the *Trionychidæ* is too obviously natural to require any laboured defence. It appears to have been made by Dr. Wagler and Mr. Gray about the same time, though the former has the advantage in priority of publication. Notwithstanding this, however, as Dr. Wagler has applied the name of *Trionyx* to this genus, giving that of *Aspidonectes* to the remainder of the family, I prefer retaining, with Mr. Gray, the name of *Trionyx* for the typical form, and giving a new appellation to the present genus, which must be considered as an abnormal form, and which consists of but one known species.

The characters by which it is distinguished from all others of the *Trionychidæ* are very striking. The osseous disk occupies, in the adult, almost the whole area of the back, reaching from the anterior margin nearly to the posterior, and entirely from one side to the other. The ribs are united through their whole length, before the animal has nearly attained his full size. The posterior margin is strengthened and supported by a series of bones unconnected with the disk: there are generally about 10 or 12 pairs, but several of them become united as the animal grows older. The sternum occupies a much more considerable space than in any other of the family; and the calli, which are seven in number, are of considerable size, almost touching each other. Another

remarkable peculiarity is that the anterior opening of the shell is capable of being partly closed by the motion of the anterior pair of sternal bones, and the posterior opening of being completely shut by two coriaceous lobes or valves arising from the posterior margin of the last two bones of the sternum.

The nuchal bone in this species is early united to the dorsal shell: it is small and of an oval or semilunar figure. The anterior pair of ribs are broader than the succeeding ones, expanding towards the margin: the posterior also are broad and short. The total number of ribs varies from six to nine pairs in the specimens which I have observed. The surface of the bone, both on the back and sternum, is not rugose as in many species of *Trionyx*, but scabrous, with numerous elevated round points, distributed pretty equally over the whole. The tail is extremely short, more so even than in *Trionyx labiatus*; but as there is no flap of skin extending behind the margin of the bony shell, it still projects a little beyond the edge of the dorsum.

There is no doubt that the habits of this animal resemble in a great measure those of the other species of the family, though there may probably be some approach to those of the *Emydidæ*, consonant with the marked approximation which we observe in its form and structure. Thus, it has not the extremely depressed form, and the soft, flattened and expanded margin, by which the *Trionyx* has the power of so readily concealing itself in the mud, and therefore probably roams after its prey more in the manner of the other fluviatile groups.

The structure of this animal is so interesting, as being evidently abnormal, that it will not perhaps be wholly unavailing to examine what are its relations to other groups, and to which of them it may be considered as constituting the annectant form. Mr. Gray has placed it at the end of the *Trionychidæ*, next to *Sphargis* of the *Cheloniadæ*. The characters of the latter genus, however, evince a much nearer affinity to *Trionyx* than to *Emyda*; as the sternum is almost wholly cartilaginous, and the ribs are not connected with the sternum, and are much less extensively ossified than in any other genus. On the other hand, we shall discover in *Emyda* many important points of affinity to the other fresh-water groups. Passing from *Trionyx*, the typical form of this family, towards the *Hydraspidæ*, we see in the present species a marked